

roadway alignments, expanding existing railroad service, new railroad alignments, and bus ways. In conducting the MIS an advisory committee was established with representation from the corridor towns. During the MIS process, more than thirty public meetings were held in addition to five public informational meetings. At the completion of the MIS, a scoping meeting will be held to solicit public input for the EIS as well as to report on the findings of the MIS. This meeting is anticipated to be conducted in June 1996.

To ensure that a full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments, and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

During the EIS a number of public informational meetings will be held at major milestones in the process. In addition, the Department will hold a public hearing or hearings approximately 30 days after the draft EIS has been made available for public and agencies review and comment.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulation implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: May 22, 1996.

Donald J. West,

Division Administrator, Hartford, Connecticut.

[FR Doc. 96-13769 Filed 5-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[STB Special Tariff Authority No. 1]¹

Petition To Allow Short-Term Notice of Fuel Cost-Related Increases

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.
ACTION: Notice of decision.

SUMMARY: On April 16, 1996, the American Trucking Associations, Inc., the Interstate Truckload Carriers Conference, and the American Movers Conference (collectively petitioners) jointly requested the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to permit motor carriers still subject to statutory tariff-filing requirements to implement fuel-related surcharges on one day's

notice. After receiving public comment on petitioners' request, the Board has decided to deny the relief sought.

DATES: This action is effective on May 28, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald A. Hall, (202) 927-5639. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Petitioners sought blanket short-notice rate increase authority to facilitate prompt recovery of increased fuel costs incurred by household goods carriers and carriers participating in joint motor/water rates in the noncontiguous domestic trade. In our decision served April 19, 1996, we concluded that, although they must themselves maintain tariffs, household goods carriers do not need short notice relief because, like most other motor carriers, they do not file tariffs with the Board, nor are their tariffs subject to the Board's tariff filing regulations at 49 CFR Part 1312; thus, they may adjust their rates to deal with fuel cost increases free from the Board's oversight. Noting that it was unclear whether rising fuel costs had a substantial impact "on the extremely limited amount of service that remains subject to the Board's tariff-filing jurisdiction, and hence over which the Board has authority to grant the relief sought by petitioners," we sought comment on petitioners' request as it pertains to motor carriers providing joint-rate service with water carriers in the noncontiguous domestic trade.

We received only one comment, from the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Inc. (DISCUS). DISCUS opposes the relief sought.

We are denying the relief sought. The initial petition presented general information on fuel price increases, but no interest responded to our request for input on the impact that rising fuel costs have had on the noncontiguous domestic trade. Moreover, it appears that recent fuel price increases have leveled off. According to information from the U.S. Department of Energy's periodic survey, diesel fuel prices appear to have peaked during the second half of April, and have since begun to stabilize and even drop. Even on the West Coast—the region hit the hardest by the recent fuel price increases—prices have stabilized since the beginning of the month.

We recently granted individual applications of two carriers—one water carrier and one motor carrier—seeking relief from the 7-day rule.² We will

continue to entertain individual requests for relief when appropriate. It does not appear on this record, however, that an across-the-board waiver is warranted.

Accordingly, we deny the broad relief sought here.

It is ordered:

The petition is denied.

Small Entities

This action will not have significant economic effects on a substantial number of small entities.

Environment

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

Decided: May 20, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-13802 Filed 5-31-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Agency Information Collection: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Cemetery System (NCS), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following proposals for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0232.

Title and Form Number: Verification of Eligibility for Burial in a National Cemetery, VA Form 40-4962.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Need and Uses: The information is used to verify and determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery and to establish permanent records of interments.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 11,754 hours.

Authority No. 2 (STB May 6, 1996); *Fuel Surcharge Increase on One Day's Notice (Viking Freight Systems, Inc.)*, Special Tariff Authority No. 3 (STB May 10, 1996).

¹ Formerly docketed as Special Tariff Authority No. 9601.

² *Fuel Surcharge Increase on One Day's Notice (Crowley Marine Services, Inc.)*, Special Tariff